

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 (ISO) W

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P R 291515Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5313

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

RUF VS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0851

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T JIDDA 4745

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PF

N S, XF, ENRG

SUBJ: MINISTER OF STATE SAQQAF AFFIRMS SAG'S SOLIDARITY
WITH FELLOW ARABS

REF: JIDDA 4652, 4672, 4708

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTORY CALL ON MINISTER
OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAYYID OMAR SAQQAF OCT 29,
SAQQAF SAID SAG SINCERELY WISHES GOOD RELATIONS WITH
U.S. BUT U.S. MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOOD RELATIONS CAN
NEVER BE FULLY RESTORED UNTIL JUST SOLUTION TO MIDDLE
EAST PROBLEM HAS BEEN REACHED. SAUDIS IN PAST HAD GIVEN
EVIDENCE OF THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER ARABS DURING
CUTOFFS OF OIL SHIPMENTS IN 1956 AND 1967. TODAY,
HOWEVER, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY FIRM IN THEIR RESOLUTION
TO USE OIL AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT ON THE ARAB SIDE.

SECRET

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SAQQAF ATTRIBUTED THIS RESOLUTION FIRST TO SAG'S SENSE
OF RESPONSIBILITY TO ARAB CAUSE WHICH WAS FELT KEENLY
BY GOVERNMENT FIGURES FROM KING ON DOWN; SECOND, SAUDI
ARABIA'S ARAB NEIGHBORS WERE AWARE THAT POSITION WHICH

ARAB ARMS HAD WON THEM AT CONFERENCE TABLE NOT OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG. ACCORDINGLY, THEY WERE ALL LOOKING TO SAG TO THROW ITS INFLUENCE VIA OIL INTO THE BALANCE.

2. IN MEANTIME, SAUDI ARABIA WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EGYPT, JORDAN AND SYRIA WITH ASSISTANCE THEY NEED AND SAUDI TROOPS WOULD REMAIN IN SYRIA UNTIL CRISIS HAD BEEN SETTLED, OR FOR "AS LONG AS SYRIA WANTS THEM".

3. REGARDING THE FORM OF A SETTLEMENT, SAQQAF EMPHASIZED THAT DISPOSITION OF JERUSALEM QUESTION IN A WAY SATISFACTORY TO ARABS WAS ALL IMPORTANT TO KING FAISAL. HE AND DEPFONMIN MAS'UD (WHO JOINED THE MEETING MID-WAY) ADDED THAT SECOND ESSENTIAL POINT TO SAG WAS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BOUNDARIES. MAS'UD AND SAQQAF REPEATED THIS SECOND POINT SEVERAL TIMES; NEITHER OF THEM, HOWEVER, MADE ANY MENTION OF THE PALESTINE QUESTION OR THE PALESTINIANS. (COMMENT: THIS IS NOT TO SAY QUESTION OF PALESTINIANS UNIMPORTANT TO SAUDIS, BUT THIS OMISSION WHICH WE HAVE NOTED ON OTHER OCCASIONS, MAY INDICATE IT IS NOT UPPERMOST IN THEIR MINDS.)

AKINS

SECRET

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To: STATE INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
KUWAIT
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